

The Character of Our Reading.

(BY E. M. BROOKS, SUPERINTENDENT.)

Some few books are purchased for ornament, and are valuable as curios or for their elegance of design and mechanical construction, but in the large part books are valuable to us first because of their contents setting forth in the best language the best thoughts of the best lives of all the ages past. Through the medium of books, the most precious products of the greatest minds of the past, the record of the hopes and fears, the longings and conquests, the joys and sorrows, the superstition, the trials and triumphs of the human soul in its evolution from darkness to light; the struggle of humanity in its progress from savagery to enlightenment, in its searching for the truth, its striving after knowledge, the feeling after God, are preserved to us. In song, story, chronicle, oration, exposition, narrative and description the achievement of the race in literature, art, science, invention, civics, economics, ethics and religion together with all of these in the Revelation of God to the world in the book called the Bible, has been transmitted—a priceless heritage ours for the asking.

But books are not valuable to us for their contents alone, but because we read them with care and appreciation, because we know them, believe them, love them, make them our friends. Two things render a book worse than useless, one is either an unintelligent or a pernicious subject matter, the other a hasty or a listless perusal. Of the first two faults some books are actually guilty of both. A book may be written in poor English, or in a disconnected manner or in a roundabout expression, there being a peck of chaff to each grain of truth, while still other devices may be employed to render the book unintelligible and consequently worthless. We frequently meet textbooks of this description as well as dull and uninteresting general reading and fiction. We say the book is not readable. That it is a waste of time to read such books is putting the case charitably.

Of the pernicious books there are two general classes: One is the so-called light literature, composing the silly and trashy fiction which is flooding the country. Not immoral in its story and suggestion, but simply silly. They are written by obscure authors, contain no moral of truth, deed, or character, illustrate no worthy motive of life, and stir no noble impulse and inspiration in the reader. But their influence is not wholly negative. They are read for the foolish love story and the trashy sentiment they contain and hence tend to produce the shallow mind, giddy disposition, surface emotions, frivolous sentiments and a palmed literary taste which make appreciation of good literature impossible. Again such trash is read hurriedly under sensational pressure and hence not only destroys the power of memory but cultivates that most pernicious of all reading habits—skimming for the cream instead of churning for the butter. Such process does secure all the bad there is in a cheap story, but most of us will never be able to comprehend the truth of a great classic by reading fast. "Of all the follies," says Ruskin, "reading fast is the least excusable. You miss the points of a book by doing so and misunderstand the rest." Finally the reading of pure and solid books in literary prose and poetry, in science, art, history and fiction becomes distasteful and is a bore. As a reader the victim belongs to that class of society, pictured by Punch: "Mamma lying on the sofa showing her pretty feet—the children delightfully teasing the governess, coachman, maid and footman—the close of the day consisting of state dinner and a reception." So much for the light variety of literature.

The other class of pernicious literature we shall designate as "rotten." By this we mean "no good," containing no nourishment, decayed, nauseating—story stale, characters moldy, morals putrid—the whole decomposing mass poorly disguised in a morbid sensationalism which arouses a depraved curiosity, appeals to the base and cultivates the evil in human thought. Its effects are to the mind or soul what a diet of stale milk, mouldy bread, putrid meat, spoiled eggs, decayed cabbage and rotten potatoes would be to the physical organism. Says Wm. Everett Clinton: "Many writers have catered to the most depraved passion of human life and filled the world with a literature that is rank with the odors of the pit. The indiscriminate reading of certain forms of fiction furnishes the leading instruction in the school of murder, plunder, theft and licentiousness. Above 2,000 volumes of fiction are published in New York City alone every month and but few of these are fit to fall into the hands of the youth." To this add a million copies a week of the sensational story paper from the same city and then consider

that twenty other cities pour their quota into this vile stream of corrupt literature that is flowing like a lava stream from the printing presses of the country, what a vast multitude of the youth of our land must be annually swept away in this flood and whirlpool of evil suggestion. The baleful nickel story numbers its daily sales by the thousand, the catalogue dime novels now contains more than one thousand numbers while every news stand and passenger train carries a full stock of twenty-five-cent, paper-back seum. Chronicling blood and thunder murder tales, vile love-making, betrayal, betraying and divorcing, defending crookedness and extolling evil. The enormous sales indicate the amount of such stuff being read. That such a reading habit leads to crime is beyond question, as the criminal records of the juvenile courts abundantly testify.

Frivolity, low aims, wicked ambition, discontent, suicide, murder, robbery, the social evil, divorce, irreverence, will continue to grow so long as innocent childhood and pure youth are corrupted by the wholesale distributing of vicious literature. Against this evil which surpasses all other forms in America except the curse of strong drink it is the business of the parent, the teacher, the minister, the better publisher, indeed all the righteous instrumentalities of society to wage ceaseless war. Not alone by warning and agitating but by selecting, purchasing and distributing good books, providing reading rooms, and founding and equipping school, church, school and municipal libraries; by legislation; and finally by constant personal supervision of the reading of the boys and girls.

We have already exceeded the limit of our space and must defer to another time what a good library should contain. Just now we are enlarging our Oregon school library. We desire to purchase only the most helpful books. We shall be pleased to have suggestions from any one to whom this discussion may come. If you have read or know of a book in any department of literature, fiction or knowledge that has been helpful to you, we shall be thankful to learn about it.

Literary program this afternoon, Friday, Juniors in charge. You are welcome. A feature will be a lively little play.

The football boys under the direction of Coach Stevenson are getting into good form for the game at Savannah Saturday. They will be able to play even better ball than the game here and have accordingly an excellent chance of winning.

School moved along nicely last week under Miss Welty's supervision, while the superintendent was at

A Superb Suit and Coat Exhibit

Hundreds of New Garments that embody the latest and most exclusive style features of this progressive season. This exhibit presents the fullest result of our Suit and Coat buyer's recent trip to the New York market and affords an opportunity in quantity, styles and values that can not be duplicated again this season. Come early and get full choice of the new things.

LADIES' SUITS

Five Charming Styles, shown in fancy mixtures, chevrons and serges; values up to \$22.50, special at only **\$15.00**

Nine Pretty Models, in our special \$18.50 assortment. One extremely pretty style in this lot is a plain mannish suit in fine quality of cheviot. Skirt has panel front and back, special at only **\$18.50**

At \$16.50 Several Entirely New Models, shown in this attractive line, including the new mannish cloth; made with the stylish 26-inch coat, long large collar, trimmed in braid, with two large ornaments for fastenings. Skirt has floating panel with side plaits, \$25 value, only **\$16.50**

Smart Walking Suits at \$25.00, Shown in thirty new and attractive models. The collars are deep revers, extending almost to the shoulders, and cut narrow in the back are brought to a point in front and fastened with one or two large buttons. Sleeves are in the new barrel shape, having no fullness and hang straight. Drapings in wonderful forms are used on the skirts; others are on the plain tailored line. See this great assortment of suits, at only **\$25.00**

At \$30.00 we are prepared to show you a greater range of styles and materials than at any time during the Fall season, both in the plain tailored and semi-fancy effects. The newest length of coat is just a little shorter than those used in the early season. The favorite materials are novelty effects; also English whipcord and chevrons. Drapings in modified forms are used on skirts. See the new arrivals at only **\$30.00**

The National Horticultural Congress—the Apple Show—meets in St. Joseph Nov. 23 to Dec. 2. Get ready for it.

Fall and Winter Shopping now at high tide and stocks of Winter merchandise at their best in all departments. Come early and get full choice of the new things.

Townsend & Wyatt Dry Goods Co.

Member Retail Merchants' Association Railroad Purses Reflected.

LADIES' COATS

A Pretty Coat Model is shown in the narrow-striped all-wool material made with deep shawl collar and wide round back; collar of velvet inlaid on material; cuffs to match. Colors: brown, light gray, tan and blue; special at **\$11.95**

One Special Assortment of Coats, shown in nine smart models, made of fine quality heavy weight mannish English tweed—Oxford, brown and the new blue, also in the two-toned and double-faced materials, specially priced for two days only, at **\$15.00**

Plush Coats Made of Sealette (Salt's celebrated seal plush) with brocade satin lining, 54 inches long; wide shawl collar and deep cuffs. Interlined throughout. **\$25.00**

Handsome Velvet Coats for afternoon wear or as simple evening wraps, the collars trimmed with wide silk braid, both in the shawl and cape effect. Floral or Pompadour designs are used for linings in this style of coat; specially priced from **\$25.00 to \$85.00**

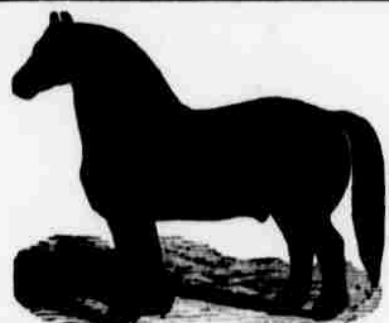
MISSSES' AND CHILDREN'S COATS

A specially attractive line of Misses' and Junior Coats, in the two-toned double-faced cloths, also in new chevrons and serges, will be placed on sale Monday morning at **\$6.50 to \$15**
A Misses' Stylish P. de Coat, shown in gray, Oxford, tan and blue; large patch pockets, deep collar and cuffs, priced at only **\$16.50**

No fruit raiser or farmer in this section of the west should fail to attend the National Horticultural Congress in St. Joseph Nov. 23 to Dec. 2.

WANTED! HORSES, MARES, MULES.

Buy Any Kind if They Are Fat. Not necessary to be sound or good workers. We have homes for all fat horses.



	Monday, Nov. 20.	Livery Barn
Forest City, Oregon.	Tuesday, " 21.	Livery Barn
Fillmore.	Wednesday, " 22.	Livery Barn
Bolckow.	Thursday, " 23.	Livery Barn
Rosendale.	Friday, " 24.	Livery Barn
Savannah.	Saturday, " 25.	Hall's L. B.

Regardless of weather, and pay the highest possible market price for all stock brought to us; age, size or price cuts no figure, if your stuff is fat.

NO "LEGGY" HORSES WANTED. Bring in the best stuff you have, or the bad fat ones, as prices cut no figure if you have the goods.

Don't forget the date, as we come to buy, not to invoice. WE WANT 200 HEAD OF MULES From 14 to 16 Hands High, 3 to 9 years old THEY MUST BE FAT AND BROKE TO WORK.

ED. L. SCOTT.
NATIONAL STOCK YARDS, ST. LOUIS.

Hannibal, and Mr. Powell proved a very popular teacher.

—Charley Flynn was in St. Joseph Wednesday, seeking medical advice.

—Albert Mark and wife visited this week at Hale, Mo., the guests of relatives and friends.

—With keen sorrow we announce the death of Mrs. E. M. Norris, which occurred at her home in this city, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 1911. We hope for an obituary for next week.

Notice!

Until further notice, Kunkel & Kiddoo, Photographers, will be in Oregon, Friday and Saturday of each week only.

They have special Christmas Prices. Call and see them in the Peacher Building, east side of square.

—Remember the dates of our Annual Chrysanthemum Show, Gem Theatre, Oregon, Mo., November 16, 17 and 18, 1911. Handkerchief Bazaar and Plant Sale in connection. Season Tickets, 25 cents; Single Admission, 10 cents. Proceeds to be used for improving the cemetery.

—Misses Leah and Grace Dooley were St. Joseph visitors, Saturday last.

—Mrs. Arminda Vandever, of Wathena, Kansas, is visiting her brother Harrison, of the Culp district.

—Rev. Hardman is conducting a very successful revival at Bluff City. There have been 13 additions and much interest is being manifested.

—Mrs. L. E. Baker, who has been quite low with pneumonia, is now much better. Her daughter, Mrs. F. L. Zeller, is much relieved in anxiety by the turn made for the better.

—There will be an Oyster Supper and Festival at the Bluff City school house, Friday evening, Nov. 24, given by the Bluff City Sunday school. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

—Dr. James Hedley was here Saturday night, as one of the numbers of our lecture course, and delivered his lecture on "An Friendship's Name." He believed friendship the greatest and noblest impelling force in the world. It was the lasting part of love. A home without friendship in it is merely a sort of a convenient boarding house arrangement. The lecture was well received, and well attended considering the very disagreeable evening.

With ample means, courteous treatment and a desire to increase our business, we

SOLICIT YOUR TRADE.

Our aim is to give you full value for your money. Will make an investigation interesting for you.

WILSON BROS.,
OREGON, MO.
Farmers' Phone, No. 101

Trustee's Sale.

Whereas, E. M. Kelley and Anna M. Kelley, husband and wife, by their certain Deed of Trust, dated the 2nd day of September, 1910, and recorded in the office of the Recorder of Deeds within and for Holt County, Missouri, on the 12th day of October, 1910, in Book 115, at Page 617, conveyed to R. M. Stevenson, of Holt County, Missouri, in trust, to secure the payment of the note to E. M. Kelley, in the said Deed of Trust described, the following described real estate, situated, lying and being in Holt County, Missouri, to wit: "The West Sixty-seven and one-half acres of the North Half of the South West Quarter of Section Three, and Lot Three, of the South East Quarter of Section Four, all in Township Sixty-one North of Range Forty (40), West of the Fifth P. M., and the said Deed of Trust providing that in case of the death, disability or refusal to act of the said Trustee, R. M. Stevenson, then the (then acting) Sheriff of the County of Holt, in which the above described premises are situated was to be appointed success or in trust with like powers and duties imposed upon said trustee named, and whereas, the said R. M. Stevenson, the said named Trustee, has in writing, refused to act as said Trustee; and whereas, the power and holder of the said note has requested me to act and to execute the power vested in me by said Deed of Trust to sell said real estate to pay said note and interest thereon, and whereas, default has been made in the payment of the said principal and interest of the said note described in the said Deed of Trust, (the same being past due and unpaid), and that said grantors have failed to comply with requirements and conditions of said Deed of Trust, now therefore, in compliance with said request, and in pursuance of the power vested in me by said Deed of Trust, I will sell said Real Estate in said Deed of Trust and this notice described, at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash in hand on

SATURDAY, THE EIGHTH DAY OF DECEMBER,

between the hours of nine o'clock in the forenoon, and four o'clock in the afternoon at the Front Door of the Court House in the City of Oregon, in the County of Holt and State of Missouri, to satisfy said debt and interest and other conditions of the said Deed of Trust and the covenants of this sale.

A. R. MCNELLY,
Sheriff of Holt County, Missouri, and Trustee.

—Dr. C. L. Evans received notice from Governor Hadley last week that he had been appointed a delegate to the Twenty-Second Annual Session of the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress, which convened in Kansas City this week, November 14-17. He will probably attend.

Chinese Government.

Whether China becomes a republic or not, Manchu rule is at an end. The Chinese will rule themselves. They may have to pass through the most critical period in the empire, but in the end they will control their own affairs. This is the consensus of opinion of every foreign diplomat and citizen, who has had opportunity to give close study to the trend of events in the Celestial Kingdom.

To begin with the Manchus are no longer a unit. The Imperial family bows to the assembly, but the war board persists in opposing the revolution. The regent yields to demand for reforms, while the Imperial soldiers massacre the reformers. A house divided against itself must fall, especially as it represents but a small fraction of the entire population whose sympathies are more and more crystallizing into support of the revolutionary movement. There has been an enlightenment in China which can no longer be satisfied with mere promises.

For more than two generations now China has been brought into close contact with the great civilized nations of the world and during the last decade has entered upon a period of wonderful development and progress in industry, commerce, the arts and sciences. The Russo-Japanese war was not without influence on the public mind, the success of the little brown man stirring in the yellow man hopes of achievement which they saw to be impossible under Manchu rule. The more he has studied the situation the more convinced the Chinaman has become that there is only one solution to his problem, and that is Chinese rule of China.

There are many reasons for believing that though Republican government may be established, it will not long survive. The upper classes may be capable of self-government, but they are greatly outnumbered by lower castes that as yet have not the slightest conception of Democratic government. However, among these lower castes are many men who have risen into prominence in national affairs, and these can, if they will, join with the upper classes in the establishment of a modified monarchy which will be a stepping stone to Democracy. Such an outcome is expected by foreign residents of China.

Picture Frames, ready for the picture, only 10 cents each. Sizes 8x11 inches, different styles. Usual price, 25 cents. Each frame bears a number which will entitle you to a chance on the \$5.00 mirror shown in our windows. The Variety Store, Oregon, Mo.

—Mrs. George Lehmer entertained a large number of her lady friends at her elegant new home in honor of her niece, Miss Jane Frothingham, of Savannah. Mrs. Lehmer had two afternoons, Saturday of last week and Tuesday of this week. Each guest was told to bring her fancy work so the afternoons were pleasantly spent in embroidery, tatting, crocheting, knitting and of course the usual amount of happy conversation and at a proper hour elegant refreshments were served.

—W. H. (Bee) Poynter, of Avalon, Mo., was here Monday making his final settlement as executor of his father's estate. Bee says he isn't a bit superstitious, but it's funny how some things happen: He says his father was married on the 13th of the month; mustered out of the 9th M. S. M. Cav. on the 13th; he died on the 13th; and, as executor, he paid the last liability of the estate on the 13th and now he was here to make his final settlement on the 13th. We were glad to see him looking so well, and he doesn't seem to be getting any older.

—You will be made to feel that life is worth its while, if you will invest \$1.00 in one of Will Mapin's latest book of poems, entitled, "Kiddies Six." Buy it, and read it, and our word for it, you will feel much better every way, for he touches the chord that makes the world akin. It's a book—a real book; it has something real good in it on its every page and it should have a place in every book case in the town and county. You should have it for your kid's sake, and if you haven't any kids, then for your own sake to remind you of the days when you were a kid. See his brother Whit and "git" one.

—Fun of the real uproarious kind predominates in Carlos Inskeep's laughing comedy success: "The Girl and The Tramp," at the Gem Theatre Monday, Nov. 27, but there are other things besides. The play tells an absorbing heart story of a supposed wrong to a loving husband, which happily, comes out all right in the end. Then, too, there are a grist of startlingly dramatic situations, the explosion of a real automobile, etc., etc. Briefly, it is a performance that should certainly be seen by everyone who enjoys a clean comedy drama. This company played a four night stand at the Lyceum in St. Joseph, and a week's engagement at the Gillis, in Kansas City.